

That which is claimed is:

1. A method of operating a communication network, the method comprising:
receiving an initiating communication from an initiating device directed to a network administration application, the initiating communication including an identification of the initiating device and an identification of the network administration application;
identifying a target device for which action is being requested by the initiating device;
and
transmitting a command communication from the network service application to a subscriber line providing service for the target device, the command communication including the identification of the initiating device, an identification of the target device, and a code identifying the action being requested by the initiating communication.
2. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the communication network comprises a public switched telephone network.
3. A method according to Claim 2 wherein receiving the initiating communication comprises receiving a call initiating communication from the initiating device and wherein transmitting the command communication comprises forwarding the call initiating communication.
4. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the identification of the initiating device and the identification of the network administration application are included as Integrated Services digital network User Part (ISUP) parameters of the initiating communication, and wherein the identification of the initiating device, the identification of the target device, and the code identifying an action relating to the target device are included as Integrated Services digital network User Part (ISUP) parameters of the command communication.
5. A method according to Claim 4 wherein the identification of the initiating device is included in a calling party ISUP parameter field of the initiating communication, wherein the identification of the network administration application is included in a called party ISUP parameter field of the initiating communication.

6. A method according to Claim 4 wherein the identification of the initiating device is included in a calling party ISUP parameter field of the command communication, wherein the identification of the target device is included in a called party ISUP parameter field of the command communication, and wherein the code identifying the action relating to the target device is included in a redirecting party ISUP parameter field of the command communication.

7. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the initiating device is coupled to the communication network using a coupling other than the subscriber line providing service for the target device.

8. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the initiating device is coupled to the communication network using the subscriber line providing service for the target device.

9. A method according to Claim 1 further comprising:
receiving the command communication at a switch for the target device; and
responsive to receiving the command communication at the switch for the target device, initiating action relating to service for the target device according to the code included in the command communication.

10. A method according to Claim 9 wherein initiating action comprises transmitting a response communication back to the network administration application, the response communication including the identification of the initiating device and a code identifying a status of service for the target device.

11. A method according to Claim 9 wherein initiating action comprises changing a status of service for the target device.

12. A method of operating a communication network, the method comprising:
receiving a command communication at a switch for a target device, the command communication including an identification of an initiating device, an identification of the target device, and a code identifying an action relating to service for the target device;
forwarding the command communication from the switch for the target device to a network administration application corresponding to the switch for the target device; and

initiating action at the network administration application relating to service for the target device according to the code included in the command communication.

13. A method according to Claim 12 wherein initiating action comprises transmitting a response communication, the response communication including the identification of the initiating device and a code identifying a status of service for the target device.

14. A method according to Claim 13 wherein the communication network comprises a public switched telephone network.

15. A method according to Claim 14 wherein receiving the command communication comprises receiving a call initiating communication and wherein transmitting the response communication comprises forwarding the call initiating communication to a switch for the initiating device.

16. A method according to Claim 12 wherein the identification of the initiating device is included in a calling party Integrated Services digital network User Part (ISUP) parameter field of the response communication, and wherein the code identifying the status of service for the target device is included in a redirecting party ISUP parameter field of the response communication.

17. A method according to Claim 12 wherein initiating action comprises changing a status of service for the target device.

18. A method according to Claim 12 wherein the communication network comprises a public switched telephone network.

19. A method according to Claim 12 wherein the identification of the initiating device, the identification of the target device, and the code identifying an action relating to service for the target device are included as Integrated Services digital network User Part (ISUP) parameters of the command communication.

20. A method according to Claim 19 wherein the identification of the initiating device is included in a calling party ISUP parameter field of the command communication,

wherein the identification of the target device is included in a called party ISUP parameter field of the command communication, and wherein the code identifying the action relating to service for the target device is included in a redirecting party ISUP parameter field of the command communication.

21. A method according to Claim 12 wherein the initiating device is coupled to the communication network using a coupling other than a subscriber line for the target device.

22. A method according to Claim 12 wherein the initiating device is coupled to the communication network using a subscriber line for the target device.

23. A communication network comprising:
a network administration application configured to receive an initiating communication from an initiating device, the initiating communication including an identification of the initiating device and an identification of the network administration application, the network administration application configured to identify a target device for which action is being requested by the initiating device, and the network administration application configured to transmit a command communication from the network service application to a subscriber line providing service for the target device, the command communication including the identification of the initiating device, an identification of the target device, and a code identifying the action being requested by the initiating communication.

24. A communication network according to Claim 23 wherein the communication network comprises a public switched telephone network.

25. A communication network according to Claim 24 wherein the network administration application is configured to receive the initiating communication as a call initiating communication from the initiating device and wherein the network administration application is configured to transmit the command communication by forwarding the call initiating communication.

26. A communication network according to Claim 23 wherein the identification of the initiating device and the identification of the network administration application are

included as Integrated Services digital network User Part (ISUP) parameters of the initiating communication, and wherein the identification of the initiating device, the identification of the target device, and the code identifying an action relating to the target device are included as Integrated Services digital network User Part (ISUP) parameters of the command communication.

27. A communication network according to Claim 26 wherein the identification of the initiating device is included in a calling party ISUP parameter field of the initiating communication, wherein the identification of the network administration application is included in a called party ISUP parameter field of the initiating communication.

28. A communication network according to Claim 26 wherein the identification of the initiating device is included in a calling party ISUP parameter field of the command communication, wherein the identification of the target device is included in a called party ISUP parameter field of the command communication, and wherein the code identifying the action relating to the target device is included in a redirecting party ISUP parameter field of the command communication.

29. A communication network according to Claim 23 wherein the initiating device is coupled to the communication network using a coupling other than the subscriber line providing service for the target device.

30. A communication network according to Claim 23 wherein the initiating device is coupled to the communication network using the subscriber line providing service for the target device.

31. A communication network according to Claim 23 further comprising:
a switch for the target device wherein the switch is configured to receive the command communication; and
a second network administration application configured to initiate action relating to service for the target device according to the code included in the command communication responsive to receiving the command communication at the switch for the target device.

32. A communication network according to Claim 31 wherein the second network administration application is configured to transmit a response communication back to the network administration application, the response communication including the identification of the initiating device and a code identifying a status of service for the target device.

33. A communication network according to Claim 31 wherein the second network administration application is configured to change a status of service for the target device.

34. A communication network comprising:
a switch for a target device, the switch configured to receive a command communication including an identification of an initiating device, an identification of the target device, and a code identifying an action relating to service for the target device, and configured to forward the command communication; and
a network administration application corresponding to the switch for the target device, the network administration application configured to receive the command communication from the switch and configured to initiate action relating to service for the target device according to the code included in the command communication.

35. A communication network according to Claim 34 wherein the network administration application is further configured to transmit a response communication, the response communication including the identification of the initiating device and a code identifying a status of service for the target device.

36. A communication network according to Claim 35 wherein the communication network comprises a public switched telephone network.

37. A communication network according to Claim 36 wherein the switch is further configured to receive the command communication as a call initiating communication and to transmit the response communication by forwarding the call initiating communication to a switch for the initiating device.

38. A communication network according to Claim 36 wherein the identification of the initiating device is included in a calling party Integrated Services digital network User Part (ISUP) parameter field of the response communication, and wherein the code identifying

the status of service for the target device is included in a redirecting party ISUP parameter field of the response communication.

39. A communication network according to Claim 34 wherein the network administration application is configured to initiate action by changing a status of service for the target device.

40. A communication network according to Claim 34 wherein the communication network comprises a public switched telephone network.

41. A communication network according to Claim 34 wherein the identification of the initiating device, the identification of the target device, and the code identifying an action relating to service for the target device are included as Integrated Services digital network User Part (ISUP) parameters of the command communication.

42. A communication network according to Claim 41 wherein the identification of the initiating device is included in a calling party ISUP parameter field of the command communication, wherein the identification of the target device is included in a called party ISUP parameter field of the command communication, and wherein the code identifying the action relating to service for the target device is included in a redirecting party ISUP parameter field of the command communication.

43. A communication network according to Claim 34 wherein the initiating device is coupled to the communication network using a coupling other than a subscriber line for the target device.

44. A communication network according to Claim 34 wherein the initiating device is coupled to the communication network using a subscriber line for the target device.

45. A computer program product configured to operate within a communications network, the computer program product comprising a computer useable storage medium having computer-readable program code embodied in the medium, the computer-readable program code comprising:

computer-readable program code that is configured to receive an initiating communication from an initiating device directed to a network administration application, the initiating communication including an identification of the initiating device and an identification of the network administration application;

computer-readable program code that is configured to identify a target device for which action is being requested by the initiating device; and

computer-readable program code that is configured to generate a command communication for a subscriber line providing service for the target device, the command communication including the identification of the initiating device, an identification of the target device, and a code identifying the action being requested by the initiating communication.

46. A computer program product according to Claim 45 wherein the identification of the initiating device is included in a calling party Integrated Services digital network User Part (ISUP) parameter field of the initiating communication, and wherein the identification of the network administration application is included in a called party ISUP parameter field of the initiating communication.

47. A computer program product according to Claim 45 wherein the identification of the initiating device is included in a calling party Integrated Services digital network User Part (ISUP) parameter field of the command communication, wherein the identification of the target device is included in a called party ISUP parameter field of the command communication, and wherein the code identifying the action relating to the target device is included in a redirecting party ISUP parameter field of the command communication.

48. A computer program product configured to operate within a communications network, the computer program product comprising a computer useable storage medium having computer-readable program code embodied in the medium, the computer-readable program code comprising:

computer-readable program code that is configured to receive a command communication, the command communication including an identification of an initiating device, an identification of the target device, and a code identifying an action relating to service for the target device; and

computer-readable program code that is configured to initiate action at the network administration application relating to service for the target device according to the code included in the command communication.

49. A method according to Claim 48 wherein the identification of the initiating device is included in a calling party ISUP parameter field of the command communication, wherein the identification of the target device is included in a called party ISUP parameter field of the command communication, and wherein the code identifying the action relating to service for the target device is included in a redirecting party ISUP parameter field of the command communication.